[17th February 1955

* 767 Q.—

Mr. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri A. Ratnam is not in his seat, the answer together with the question will be printed in the official proceedings."

Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government maintain any statistics on beedi industry in the State;

(b) if so, how many concerns are functioning in the State now; and

(c) whether the Government have given any aid or loan so far to improve the beedi industry and the condition of the beedi workers?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Statistics of industrial concerns including beedi industry which come within the purview of Factories Act, 1948, are maintained by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

" (b) There were 380 beedi factories in the State as on 30th June 1954.

" (c) No, Sir."

Lower Bhavani Project

* 768 Q.—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of fines collected from the agriculturists in Lower Bhavani Project area of Gobichettipalayam and Erode taluks of Coimbatore district during 1954 for cultivating crops not allowed under the rules;

(b) the crops that are forbidden to be cultivated in that area; and

(c) whether the Government will allow the cultivation of paddy crops in that area?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a)

	RS.
Gobichettipalayam taluk	28,000
Erode taluk	910

" (b) The cultivation of cotton, millets, groundnut and gingelly have been allowed subject to the understanding that no water would be made available before the date when the canals will be opened for irrigation. The cultivation of tobacco, chillies, turmeric, castor, tapioca, yams and pulses have also been allowed subject to certain conditions, in the fields which have the support of wells. The cultivation of sugarcane, betels and plantains have been prohibited except in backyard cultivation of plantains and vegetables has been allowed to the extent of 10 cents for each existing well without any penalty. Further, scattered fruit trees, coconuts and plantains have also been allowed but not on a field scale.